



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Pipeline and  
Hazardous Materials Safety  
Administration**

409 3rd Street, SW, Suite 300  
Washington, DC 20024

## **WARNING LETTER**

### **CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**

September 7, 2007

Mr. Randy Barnard  
Vice President  
Operations and Gas Control  
Williams Gas Pipeline  
2800 Post Oak Boulevard  
Houston, Texas 77056

**CPF 1-2007-3003W**

Dear Mr. Barnard:

From May 3 to May 6 and on October 12, 2005, a representative of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) pursuant to Chapter 601 of 49 United States Code inspected your procedures, records and facilities at the Station 240 LNG plant in Carlstadt, New Jersey.

As a result of the inspection, it appears that you have committed probable violations of the Pipeline Safety Regulations, Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations. The items inspected and the probable violations are:

**1. § 193.2711 Personal health.**

**Each operator shall follow a written plan to verify that personnel assigned operating, maintenance, security, or fire protection duties at the LNG plant do not have any physical condition that would impair performance of their assigned duties. The plan must be designed to detect both readily observable disorders, such as**

**physical handicaps or injury, and conditions requiring professional examination for discovery.**

1a. Williams Gas Pipeline's (Williams') written plan requires that the "physical examination records related to this procedure be retained at the LNG Plant Office." During the inspection, only one record of an employee physical examination (physical) was at the LNG Plant Office. Williams stated that it retains its employee health records in its Houston headquarters. This is not consistent with the written plan. Subsequent to the 2005 inspection, Williams maintained the employee health records at the LNG Plant Office.

1b. Williams' written plan requires that at the time of initial employment, each applicant will be administered a physical examination performed by a company-approved physician. On the list of plant employees that Williams later provided to the inspector, there were three employees that had not received a pre-employment physical.

1c. Williams' written plan requires that all employees at the LNG plant pass a physical examination at five-year intervals by a company-approved physician. On the list of plant employees that Williams provided to the inspector (same list as 1b. above), seventeen (17) employees were not listed as having passed a physical examination administered at five-year intervals between 1999 and 2005. During the 2007 inspection, all of Williams' employees had been administered physical examinations within the preceding five years by a company-approved physician.

Under 49 United States Code, § 60122, you are subject to a civil penalty not to exceed \$100,000 for each violation for each day the violation persists up to a maximum of \$1,000,000 for any related series of violations. Also, for LNG facilities, an additional penalty of not more than \$50,000 for each violation may be imposed. We have reviewed the circumstances and supporting documents involved in this case, and have decided not to conduct additional enforcement action or penalty assessment proceedings at this time. We advise you to correct the items identified in this letter. Failure to do so will result in Williams being subject to additional enforcement action.

No reply to this letter is required. If you choose to reply, in your correspondence please refer to **CPF 1-2007-3002W**. Be advised that all material you submit in response to this enforcement action is subject to being made publicly available. If you believe that any portion of your responsive material qualifies for confidential treatment under 5 U.S.C. 552(b), along with the complete original document you must provide a second copy of the document with the portions you believe qualify for confidential treatment redacted and an explanation of why you believe the redacted information qualifies for confidential treatment under 5 U.S.C. 552(b).

Sincerely,

*For Mark Wendt*

Byron Coy, PE

Director, Eastern Region

Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration